

Washington, DC - Following the vote on the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6899) last night, Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) released this statement:

"I strongly support drilling as part of the solution to the energy crisis. However, I couldn't support the bill that was before us last night," said Barrow. "It didn't go far enough when it comes to responsible drilling for more of our own oil.

It also went too far in imposing a one-size-fits-all renewable energy mandate on electric utilities that the utilities in our part of the country just can't meet.

This would end up costing us close to \$100 per year, with no net increase in renewable energy to show for it.

These are tough times, and I just can't support something that would make it harder for families to pay their bills."

"There is an alternative I do support, the Motion to Recommit offered last night, H.R. 6709, which I voted for. This bill has broad, bipartisan support, would open up more of our own reserves to responsible drilling, and would make the first real investments in the development of alternative energy. I believe that the substitute struck the proper balance between using our own resources and preparing for the future, and that's why I voted for it."